

# NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BERRITT,  
PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—CORSICAN BROTHERS—POTASH.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—TWO BOWENSTONS—BALLETS—INVESTMENT—PETITION GOVERNMENT—FISAC.

BURTON'S THEATRE, Chambers street—WORK OF AN ARTIST—RAKE'S PRODIGES—ONE THOUSAND MILLIONS.

NATIONAL THEATRE, Chambers street—NICK OF TIME—CHARLES II—SHOWMAN, CONJUROR AND MONKEY.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway—SPEND THE PLOUGH—HIGH LIFE BELOW STAIRS.

WHITE'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES, 17 and 19 Bowery—FAIRY PRINCE—WON FAIR LADY—BOOTS AT THE SWAN—MERRY MAKING.

AMERICAN MUSEUM—AFTERNOON—MAID OF MONTPELIER—HOP OF MY THUMB—EVENING—SWISS SWAINS—HOP OF MY THUMB.

CHRISTY'S OPERA HOUSE, 42 Broadway—ENDORPHIAN—MELANCHOLY—CHRISTY'S OPERA HOUSE.

WOOD'S MINSTRELS, Wood's Musical Hall, 444 Broadway—ENDORPHIAN MINSTRELS.

CIRCUS, 37 Bowery—EQUESTRIAN ENTERTAINMENT.

HELLER'S SALOON, 530 Broadway—NEMO MANET.

GEORAMA, 156 Broadway—RAYNARD'S PANORAMA OF THE BOY LAND.

REILEY'S THEATRE, at 406 Broadway.

## DOUBLE SHEET.

New York, Saturday, January 23, 1853.

Mails for Europe.

THE NEW YORK WEEKLY HERALD.

The Collins steamship Pacific, Captain Nye, will leave this port at noon to-day, for Liverpool.

Subscriptions and advertisements for any edition of the New York Herald will be received at the following places in Europe:

B. Randolph & Co., London.

William Thomas & Co., 19 and 21 Catherine street, Livingston, Wells & Co., Paris.

B. H. Revell, 17 Rue de la Banque.

The European mail will close, in this city, at a quarter before eleven o'clock this morning. The WEEKLY HERALD will be published at half past nine o'clock.

Single copies, in wrappers, sixpence.

The News.

By the arrival of the Cunard steamer Europa, at Halifax, we have a complete synopsis of one week's later advices from all parts of Europe. The political news by this arrival is of little importance, though the general intelligence will be found quite interesting. We are informed of the loss of some fifty lives by the burning of the packet ship St. George, on the 24th ult. She left Liverpool for this port just one month previous to the awful calamity, with one hundred and twenty-seven emigrants and a crew of twenty-five men. When those on board the ill-fated vessel had given up all hope of succor, the ship Orlando hove in sight, and after great difficulty succeeded in rescuing seventy-six passengers and the crew, shortly after which the St. G. went down. The O. proceeded to Havre, where subscriptions were raised for the benefit of the unfortunate. We are also advised of the loss of the ship Lady of the West, which sailed from Bristol for New Orleans on the 23d ult. The captain and crew were compelled to abandon her. They were picked up in the long boat, and taken into Falmouth. Accounts of damage experienced by the shipping, during the recent gale, continued to be received, but we do not find the names of any more American vessels reported as having met with disaster.

Mr. Ingersoll, the successor of Mr. Lawrence, as Minister to England, has been fitted at Liverpool and Manchester. The elections for members of Parliament, in place of those who have been selected for the ministry, were engrossing the attention of the English politicians. It is hinted that Lord John Russell is to give place to Lord Clarendon in the Foreign Office. Lola Montez' husband, Mr. Heald, was not drowned, as report recently had it. Things were progressing quietly in France. The Emperor Napoleon was occupying his time in making his household appointments, and attending to the credentials of the ambassadors from different countries. All the Northern powers have recognized his new form of government. There appears to have been some pretty severe fighting between the Turks and the disaffected Montenegrins. During the late skirmishing, the former represent that six hundred of their number were slain, but how many men their adversaries lost had not been ascertained.

The commercial reports from Liverpool are of rather an unfavorable character to American dealers. Cotton and breadstuffs were extremely dull, and a further decline in prices was anticipated. The steamship Cherokee arrived yesterday, with late and very important intelligence from Cuba, Honduras and the South Pacific. On reference to the details, in another column, it will be seen that there are indications that there will soon be stirring times in those regions. Great Britain is likely to have trouble with this government concerning her operations in Honduras, and with Spain in regard to the slave trade and the connection of the Cuban authorities therewith. From Chili we are informed that much excitement exists in consequence of the imprisonment of an American citizen without just provocation. Matters are said to have arrived at such a crisis that a blockade of the port of Valparaiso by the United States squadron had been threatened. Later accounts will be looked for with anxiety. Verily, these are stirring times.

No business of general importance was transacted in the United States Senate yesterday. A large number of private bills were passed—among them one to compensate the heirs of Major Wigg, of South Carolina, whose property was destroyed by the British army during the revolutionary war. The report of the Committee on Foreign Relations relative to the Tehuantepec grants by the Mexican government, and the rights of American citizens connected therewith, was made the special order for next Tuesday week. Among the petitions presented were two from the free farm advocates of this State, praying for the abolition of the system of selling lands, and the enactment of a law parceling out the public domain to actual settlers. After some opposition on the part of Mr. Fitzpatrick, the successor of the Vice President elect, the Senate went into executive session, but came to no decision with regard to the appointment of Mr. Badger as Judge of the Alabama and Louisiana district.

A very spirited and somewhat amusing debate came off in the House of Representatives, concerning the motion to reconsider the vote by which a message received from the President on the day previous was ordered to be printed. The reason assigned for this motion was, that important matter, which should not have been laid before the public, connected with Cuban affairs, had leaked out, in a singular way, through the indiscretion of President Fillmore. An unsuccessful effort was made to have the galleries cleared, in order that the document might be examined in secret session, after which it was resolved that the message should be read for the edification of those present. Heads were bent forward, and the utmost anxiety was manifested to ascertain what were the contents of the extraordinary paper which had been the cause of such great commotion. The suspense was painful in the extreme. Well, the document was read, and found to be nothing more than a mere statement of the fact that negotiations are in progress with Spain for the adjustment of the claims of the owners and others of the Amor can bark Georgia and brig Susan Lo J, which vessels were seized and confiscated by the Spanish authorities

shortly after the unfortunate expedition of Lopez to Cuba. After some meriment the House followed the example of the Senate, by adjourning till Monday.

By reference to the despatch from our Concord correspondent, it will be seen that politicians are still flocking to that place from all directions. The crisis with regard to the Cabinet is fast approaching, although it is not known upon whom Gen. Pierce has decided for his advisers, and nobody ventures to bet on a single member. Gen. Pierce seems determined to keep his own counsel. Like the late Gen. Jackson, he is sometimes obstinate, and will doubtless have his own way, in spite of cliques and factions. Occupants of the anxious seats must keep cool, and wait till the 4th of March with patience. There will then be a general sweep among the whig office holders. Those who write letters from Washington, particularly, should not allow themselves to become unduly excited just yet. It will be time to threaten Gen. Pierce after the 4th of March. The chances of New York having a place in the cabinet are not so good as they were a week ago. Our politicians are, just now, following up Gen. Pierce very jealously. Something less than twenty, within the past three days, have been to see the General. He remains tranquil, but he may yet turn a cold shoulder to the Empire State altogether.

There is a rumor current at Fayetteville, N. C., on which is placed considerable reliance, that the Hon. James C. Dobbin has received a letter from General Pierce, offering him a seat in his cabinet.

A Washington correspondent writes that the prospects are favorable for the passage of a bill granting permission to the Pacific Telegraphic Company to erect a line in accordance with the propositions of Messrs. Alden and Eddy, the details of whose plan were published in last Monday's HERALD. The projectors pledge themselves to have the line in operation to San Francisco, within eighteen months after the passage of the bill. This would enable the inhabitants of the Atlantic States to correspond with their friends in California with the same despatch that they now do with those in Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, or St. Louis. The commencement of such an immense work would be a wonderful undertaking, and one that would appal almost any other than the American people, who have demonstrated the fact that they are able to encounter and accomplish wonders. Progress is their motto.

Quite an interesting scene took place in the Assembly chamber at Albany, yesterday. A delegation of ladies, with a petition signed by twenty-eight thousand of their sex in favor of the Maine law, appeared at the bar, and one of their number addressed the members of the august body. Our State representatives having listened to the fair and liquor representatives with becoming gallantry, soon after entered into a very spirited debate upon the canal enlargement question, which at present seems to be a subject of far greater importance than the proceedings of the Female Temperance Convention now in session at the State capital, notwithstanding the doings in the latter body are possessed of unusual interest, and that many of the delegates are able to make pretty good speeches—a good, perhaps, as most of the legislators themselves. By the report, it will be seen that the ladies complain that they have only procured twenty-eight thousand signatures to their petition, although there are upwards of seven hundred thousand women in the State. This does not speak so well for the popularity of their cause as the first glance would indicate.

In the United States Circuit Court, yesterday, counsel concluded summing up in the case of Captain Farnham, charged with manslaughter in consequence of the destruction of life caused by the bursting of the boiler of the steamboat Reinder last summer on the North River. After listening to an elaborate charge from Judge Betts, the jury retired, and were absent nearly seven hours, when they returned, and reported that they were unable to agree. Upon this announcement, by consent of counsel on both sides, the jurymen were discharged. A full report of the proceedings, which are very important to all navigators, and steamboat captains in particular, is given elsewhere.

A man named Patrick Broderick, who had been employed in the apothecary's store which is attached to the Emigrant Hospital, Ward's Island, mistook some liquid poison for brandy, and drank a quantity of it, last Thursday. He died, and an inquest was held upon his body yesterday, when a verdict was returned in accordance with the facts.

Quite an obstinate debate was had last night in the Brooklyn Common Council, on the subject of the supply of water to that city, and a resolution was carried, remonstrating against the bill to enlarge the powers of the Williamsburg Company.

We annex a brief summary of the inside pages of this edition:—Interesting Letter from Hon. Mr. Beale, of Virginia, with regard to the movements of North Carolina and Virginia in the cause of American Independence; Reply of the Cuban Junta to a Washington Correspondent, concerning the feasibility of establishing a republic on the island of Cuba; Lectures, on "Oriental History," by Miss Bacon; on the "Six Days of Creation," by Professor Taylor Lewis; on "the Conservative and the Progressive," by Rev. H. W. Beecher; on "Now and Then," by Hon. Anson Burlingame; on the "Volcanic Character of Italy," by Professor Silliman, and on "Homeopathy," by Dr. McVicker; Financial and Commercial Review; Court Proceedings; Extracts relative to Canadian Reciprocity; the Rochester Flour Trade, &c.

VISITORS TO EUROPE.—The Collins steamship Pacific leaves to-day for Liverpool. She carries fifty passengers. Among the number we notice the name of the Hon. Caleb Lyon, of Lyonsdale, member of Congress elect from New York. We learn that Mr. Lyon intends to make the tour of Europe, and may possibly extend his trip to Egypt and the Holy Land. Time, only, will prevent him from accomplishing the entire tour, for Congress meets in December next.

Mr. Lyon is an ex-member of the Assembly and Senate of this State, previous to which he was an ex-consul to Shanghai, and ex-secretary of the California Constitutional Convention. Besides being an M. C., he is also an L.L.D. and member of several literary societies. These titles and qualifications, to say nothing of the private character of Mr. L., are a sufficient passport for him wherever he may go. As a brilliant poet and successful orator he is well known to all our readers. He has written and spoken his way into public fame and favor, and we may now expect he will add another title to his list, by his observations and letters from Europe. Since the days of John Randolph of Roanoke we have not met a more eccentric character.

With this, what more can be asked? Some day, perhaps, a seat in the cabinet of some future President, or a mission to one of the courts of Europe. Who knows?

RECIPROCAL TRADE WITH CANADA.—As the subject of Canadian reciprocity will in all probability be brought before the attention of Congress, in some shape or other, this session, the article from a Canadian paper—the Hamilton Journal—will be read with interest. It will be seen that the Canadian editor confesses, with commendable honesty, that the reciprocity offered us is reciprocity only in name; and that it is useless to attempt to humbug Americans with it, as "they understand it as well as we do." The bid, too, that the Canadians already enjoy very considerable advantages under the operation of the drawback act, which may be lost to them if they attempt to carry out the retaliatory policy threatened by Mr. Hincks, shows some common sense, the more remarkable as it is not often we find evidences of it in the papers of our provincial neighbors.

Arrival of the Cherokee—Startling News from Cuba and Central America.

The news by the Cherokee, which we publish this morning, from Cuba and Central America, is of the most ominous and startling character—ominous in regard to the "manifest destiny" of Cuba, and startling in reference to the alleged outrageous colonial usurpation of the British in Central America.

From Cuba we are advised that, as was to have been expected, the interference of her Britannic Majesty's cruisers, in the suppression of the African slave trade of the island, has excited a very bitter feeling against the British officials and subjects, on the part of the island authorities. To such an extent, it appears, has this prejudice been carried, that a wealthy English planter, named Boylen, residing at St. Jago de Cuba, has been unceremoniously expelled from the place by the civil Lieutenant of Captain Canedo, there residing, and without even condescending to give to Boylen the slightest information of the offence, or the suspicion upon which it was deemed expedient so summarily to drive him out. Probably he may have been regarded as an impediment to the slave traffic, and likely to communicate unauthorized intelligence to the British vessels of war along the coast, or the movements of the slave dealers. Perhaps he may have been marked, by some of the numerous spies of Canedo, as a sympathizer with the filibuster; but whatever his offences, or the suspicions against him, may have been, they do not appear. He has been forcibly, and without warrant of law, expelled from his residence, and at the last accounts was at Havana.

Now, if this little experiment of despotic authority does not bring about a crisis in the history of Cuba, it will be from the prompt reparation to Boylen, by the Captain-General, of all the damages and losses he may have incurred, or may incur, from his ejection from his plantation. The British government, to its honor be it spoken, does not permit an outrage on a British subject, however humble he may be, or however formidable or inaccessible the offending party by whom the offence is committed, without exacting the required atonement. In anticipation of the hanging within our limits of that boasting, idle braggart, McLeod, we were given to understand, notwithstanding the disasters which would have followed to England, that the whole strength of the empire, if necessary, might very possibly be concentrated upon us, to right the wrong of his execution. This sound national policy makes the declaration, "I am a Briton" infinitely more of a safeguard, the world over, to the individual, than "I am a Roman" was in the golden age of Augustus. We anticipate, then, if Boylen has suffered from the despotic exercise of illegal authority by Canedo's agents, that he and they will make instant reparation on demand, or that there will be no such tomfoolery with them as that of our amiable administration in the Crescent City difficulty. The man must be righted, or the next thing we may hear will be of a bombardment or two, and the blockade of the island.

It appears, also, that General Canedo is considerably disturbed concerning the recent change in the Spanish ministry. And he well may be. The recent outrages upon our commerce, perpetrated under his authority, or with his connivance, have been laid before the government at Madrid, and in a tone of voice showing, at least, that he is a dangerous captain for the preservation of the existing sovereignty of Cuba. The more recent events bearing upon the African slave trade, British interference, and the outrage upon a British subject, will be very apt, also, to have their due weight with the new Cabinet of Isabella. In this view a crisis has already arrived in the affairs of Cuba, which, for better or worse, (though it can hardly be worse), promises to bring the fate of the island to a speedy determination. The summary execution of fifty Americans at Havana, may be a safe experiment; but we apprehend that any tampering with the personal rights of John Bull will prove to be extremely hazardous. Thus much for Cuba.

The intelligence from our regular correspondent at San Juan del Norte, is decidedly interesting, and, indeed, somewhat astounding. It challenges our credulity, yet our correspondent has proved himself a reliable man; nor can we imagine any motive in this instance for a misrepresentation of the facts. We are induced, therefore, to give full credit to his letter. The daring usurpation of a colonial establishment in Honduras, is but a piece of the same cloth as the creation of the colony of the Bay Islands. But this promotion of the superintendent of the cutters of logwood to the dignity of the Colonial Governor of Honduras, will be a mighty nice piece of work for the United States Senate. The protectorate of the Mosquito King is but a trifling, laughable bagatelle, compared with a downright British colony stretching nearly across the continent, over the breast of Central America. This sort of thing explains, at all events, the British construction of the Clayton and Bulwer treaty, without blinking. It is a cool operation; and if the grounds of territorial jurisdiction, as laid down in the Senate by Messrs. Pearce and Seward, be correct, it will be a difficult thing to get over, or get under, or get round in any way. But if the views of General Cass and Mr. Soule are sound and "vindicate the truth of history," then there will be work to do. The Clayton and Bulwer treaty is then a dead letter—the British colony of Honduras is a British usurpation, and either John Bull or Brother Jonathan must back out.

In a word, crediting our news from San Juan as most probably authentic to its full extent, our grave and reverend fathers of the United States Senate will soon be called upon to give some explicit and practical interpretations of the Monroe doctrine.

A LITTLE REFORM WANTED IN THE CUSTOM HOUSE.—It is a matter of very general complaint, that valuable parcels, sent to this country by Americans travelling in Europe, as souvenirs of their voyage, get such overhauling and tossing about among the officials in our Custom House, either through curiosity or carelessness, as to depreciate and injure them materially, and sometimes to create confusion and mistakes as to their delivery. In France and England there is more care and politeness exhibited, and they generally pass the Custom Houses there without the slightest injury. We suppose there will soon be a general overhauling among the officials themselves in that department of public affairs; but, in the meantime, we beg to suggest to the present incumbents, the exercise of a little more care in overhauling what belongs to others, and we ask them to bequeath the same recommendation to their successors.

The ice at Albany is now sufficiently firm for the passage of loaded teams.

Important Exploring Expeditions from the United States.

The letter of our Washington correspondent, in Wednesday's paper, makes reference to three exploring expeditions now about to set sail from the United States, namely—the Arctic expedition, under the command of Dr. Kane; the Paraguay and La Plata, commanded by Lieutenant Page, and the China and North Pacific seas, under the auspices of Commander Ringgold. Besides these, there is the expedition of Commander Lynch to Africa, and the Japan expedition, of which the flag ship has already sailed.

There is nothing for which the United States is more distinguished—nothing that shows in more vivid coloring the active spirit and enterprise of her sons—than these exploring expeditions, partly scientific and partly commercial, bearing around the globe the star-spangled banner which for three-score years and ten has triumphantly "braved the battle and the breeze," and is destined to shed the light of the first true republicanism the world ever saw, over every sea, and land and kindred and tongue and people and nation, to "the farthest verge of the green earth, and rivers unknown to song." Let us give a résumé of the principal foreign exploring expeditions, of an official character, that have marked our brief but brilliant history, from the expedition of Wilkes to the present time, when there are five of them in operation together.

1.—The expedition of Captain Wilkes to the South Sea, the results of which are alike creditable to the country and the discoverer. This was in 1838-6-7. His narrative, extending to six quarto volumes, beautifully illustrated, has been published by Congress, and copies sent to every government in Europe, and to some of them duplicates at their own request. These, together with the scientific portion of the work, will cost the government nearly a million of dollars; but the expenditure on this publication is nothing when compared with the fruits of the glorious enterprise. It is a contribution of science and discovery, from the United States to the rest of the world, of vast importance in a maritime, commercial, and geographical point of view. It had been long a disputed question whether the British navigator, Sir James Ross, or Captain Wilkes, were entitled to the palm for the discovery of the Antarctic continent; but it has recently been admitted, by the Geographical Society of London, that the honor belongs to the American sailor, who coasted that continent for fifteen hundred miles, and made the first discovery of it, though Ross undoubtedly discovered it afterwards without knowing that Wilkes had been ahead of him.

2.—The Dead Sea expedition, conducted by Commander Lynch, who explored the sources of the Jordan, descended its rapids for two thousand feet, measured its volume, made a survey of its topography, tracing its course to its mouth, where it discharges itself into the Dead Sea. He not only ascertained the peculiarities of this sacred river, but the still greater and more wonderful peculiarities of the Dead Sea, of which he made various soundings, determining its bottom to consist of solid salt, and discovering depressions produced by volcanic action, which confirm the narrative of the Bible in reference to the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the other "Cities of the Plain." Here is a beautiful contribution to science and to scriptural geography, by American engineers.

3.—The astronomical expedition of Lieut. Gillis to South Peru, where he has established an observatory, considered of great importance to the science of the starry heavens.

4.—The Grinnell expedition to the Arctic Seas in search of Sir John Franklin, under Lieut. De Haven embracing both a benevolent and a scientific object. By this expedition important additions have been made to geographical science, in relation to land and sea, and it is hoped that when followed up by the expedition now in preparation, the truth of the theory of an open Arctic sea at the pole will be demonstrated.

5.—The second Grinnell expedition to the Arctic Seas, in search of Sir John Franklin, under the command of Dr. Kane, who was surgeon to the first. This, like the first, is of a twofold character, embracing benevolence and science; and if it falls in the one, there is every expectation that under its brave and able commander, it will be eminently successful in the other. It may turn out like the case of the father, who, when dying, bequeathed a field to his sons, telling them it contained a cove of gold. They turned up the field very carefully, but found none of the shining metal. The result, however, was, that by this cultivation of the ground, they reaped golden harvests, which amply remunerated them for their toil. Dr. Kane may never succeed in finding Sir John Franklin, but by the perseverance sustained by that hope, he may make other discoveries amidst the regions of eternal ice of far greater importance to his country and to mankind than the recovery of the lost expeditionist.

6.—The Japan expedition, which partakes of a commercial and geographical character, and at the same time having a spice of the political and the Christian in its composition. While it makes scientific discoveries of great maritime importance to our navigation of these seas, it will make our flag respected, and our power known to the barbarians, who, if they do not receive the gospel in any other way, must be converted by the roar of Paikhan guns.

7.—The expedition of Commander Ringgold to all the China and North Pacific seas. It is to sail during the present month. Its object is to explore the belt of islands in those waters, with a view to the purposes of navigation and the advancement of the commerce of the world, but more particularly the commercial and political interests of the United States. Out of this, in connection with the Japan expedition, are likely to grow the most important and beneficent results to humanity Christianity and civilization.

8.—The expedition to Africa of Commander Lynch, so favorably known to the public as the Dead Sea expeditionist. He recently sailed in the Arctic, en route to his destination. The object of this expedition is to select a more healthy location for colonization purposes than Liberia, embracing also commercial objects, and the tracing of the sources of the Niger. Thus again do we blend together in happy harmony, science, commerce, and benevolence.

9.—The exploration of the mighty Amazon, under command of Lieutenant Herndon, of which Lieutenant Maury, of the Washington Observatory, has given such interesting information in our columns during the last two months. This expedition has unfolded the gigantic resources of the Atlantic slopes of the South American continent, from the Andes, and has stimulated the daring and adventurous mercantile spirit of the country.

10.—The expedition still further South, of Lieutenant Page, to the Paraguay and La Plata,

which is to sail this week in the steamer Water Witch, is regarded of great practical moment. Its object is to explore these rivers, with a view to ascertain the commercial resources of the countries watered by them, in order to effect such treaties as may open new fields for commercial enterprise, and the continually expanding spirit of our people. This is following up the explorations of the Amazon, and no doubt the result will be to attract the most extensive speculation to those vast and fruitful regions of the South American continent.

Here, then, within the short period of eighteen years, we have ten important foreign official expeditions bearing upon the commercial relations and the tremendous destiny of this great republic. There is no parallel to this in the history of mankind. Among these we do not enumerate the internal official expeditions, exploring the resources of our own territory, from the time of Jefferson down to the present day, beginning with Lewis and Clarke, who were the first to explore Oregon and its rivers, followed by Colonel Pike, Nicolet, Fremont, Abert, and Captain Stansbury. Of these, Fremont's labors are by far the most important, for he not only discovered the South Pass and the Salt Lake—being the first white man that ever set foot there—but located and laid down on the map, the whole of the North American continent, from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific ocean, and from Oregon to Mexico. Besides these discoveries, there have been numerous semi-official and private expeditions, which have contributed more or less to science, to the exploration of terra incognita, to the development of the resources of the country, and to the extension of its trade and commerce from pole to pole.

And who has not heard of the expedition of Palmer—the father of clipper ships—who in his little sloop embarked from Stonington, and found himself one morning, as a fog cleared away, in the presence of two Peruvian ships-of-war upon an exploring cruise in the South Sea, while at the same time some islands loomed up in the distance, which he had then seen for the first time? With the tact of the "universal Yankee nation," he immediately tendered his services to these ships as a pilot. The commander took him on board, and seeing he was a noble tar, liked him, admitted his claims to the discovery of the group of islands in the Southern Pacific, and in honor of his name, called them "Palmer's Land." How illustrative is this story of American genius!

All these movements, both external and internal, are indicative of the intense mental activity of the American people—their progressive, go-ahead character—and their "manifest destiny" to overspread the earth with their free institutions, their advanced civilization, and their unconquerable spirit.

A QUESTION OF STATE PRIDE.—NORTH CAROLINA VS. VIRGINIA.—DR. HAWKES VS. GEN. BEALE.—We publish elsewhere in the columns of the HERALD, this morning, an interesting letter from the Hon. J. M. H. Beale, representative from the fourteenth district of Virginia, in Congress, on the subject of American independence. The immediate provocation to this letter was the lecture of Dr. Hawkes, before the New York Historical Society, on the 17th of December last, based upon the assumption that the county of Mecklenburg, N. C., is entitled to the honor of the first decisive movement in the cause of American independence. Gen. Beale takes up the gauntlet thus thrown down, and produces conclusive evidence of a somewhat similar movement, a year before, in Dumfries county, Virginia, now Shenandoah, the heart of the present democratic "Tenth Legion" of that State.

We apprehend, however, that Gen. Beale has mistaken the specific character of the claim put in by Dr. Hawkes in behalf of North Carolina. It was not, as Gen. B. supposes, a claim "of the first movement towards a declaration of American independence," but, in his own words, as reported and published in the HERALD, Dr. Hawkes claims that—

First—It was on the shores of North Carolina that the first English colony was planted in America; secondly—the first blood shed in battle with the troops of the English government, in support of the principles of the American revolution, was the blood of North Carolinians; and the first battle won on the soil of that State; and, thirdly, the first declaration of independence ever promulgated in any of those colonies came from North Carolina, more than a year before the National Declaration of July 4, 1776.

This is the issue—the first "absolute declaration" of independence, as claimed by Dr. Hawkes in behalf of North Carolina, and as referred to by the Hon. W. A. Graham, in his very interesting lecture before the same society, on Thursday night last. True, the Virginia movement was a year in advance of that in Mecklenburg, and the former may have suggested the latter; but still the first was a contingent, and not an absolute declaration of independence, like the last. Admitting the premises of General Beale, his case is made out; but having mistaken the real issue, the claim of North Carolina remains intact which is this: that the citizens of Mecklenburg county, in that State, promulgated the first absolute declaration of American independence.

We cheerfully give place, however, to the letter of Gen. Beale, on account of its interesting historical information, which will doubtless be as acceptable to Dr. Hawkes, and the New York Historical Society, as to the patriotic people of the old "Tenth Legion" of Virginia, and of the country at large.

TAMMANY HALL AND CONCORD.—THE SOFT SHELLS AND HARD SHELLS.—There was a sort of revolution in the "coal-hole" of Tammany Hall last Friday night; and the soft shells, or that branch of the unfettered and hungry democracy disposed to take the repenting free soilers into good communion, came off completely victorious. Whether the defeated hard shells will knock under, or forswear hereafter the councils of the "coal-hole," and set up a new church of their own, remains yet to be determined. In the meantime, according to our telegraphic advices from Concord, published yesterday, a strong detachment of hard shells, in favor of Dickinson's appointment to the cabinet, were on the way to Concord, but had been "switched off" somewhere near Boston; while a deputation of leading soft shells, consisting of such men as Church, Wright, Cliftfield, Welch and Peter Cagger, had arrived safely at the end of their pilgrimage, their object being to defeat the appointment of Dickinson. "This is a very pretty quarrel as it stands," and if it is not settled in some satisfactory compromise we may anticipate a fuss in the family. General Pierce was at home, and we trust that both hatches of pilgrims, ere this, have been heard, and sent packing back again. If there is nothing but discord in Tammany Hall what can they gain of Concord in New Hampshire?

The Minnesota Pioneer states that there are in that vicinity vast bodies of beautiful white sand, from which a superior article of glass may be manufactured.

THE VETERAN CORPS OF 1812.—TRIP TO ALBANY.

The Veterans Corps of the war of 1812, '13 and '14, being "about to visit Albany, to present themselves before the Legislature, in behalf of their suffering brother-soldiers, and widows of those deceased, who served the United States for the defence of this city and State," have issued a circular for subscriptions to aid them through the expenses of the proposed expedition. They have appointed a committee to wait upon their fellow citizens for this object, consisting of Peter J. Vandenhoff, Captain H. Raymond, Henry Riell, Henry Williams, and others; and we freely recommend their undertaking, as well deserving the liberality of our citizens and the gratitude of the Commonwealth. Let the young men of our various military organizations see to it, especially that these old veterans of our last struggle with England do not call for "material and financial aid" in vain.

MADAME SONTAG AS LUCRECIA BORGIA.—For the first time on the continent, Madame Sontag appeared last evening in a tragic opera. During the preceding part of her series she had played only the light roles of Marie and Rosina, and had, as it were, covered the exhibition of her tragic powers to crown her triumph. But last evening she had the opportunity of displaying them with effect in the personation of the famous character of Lucrecia Borgia. Her success was complete, astonishing. The great actress, still more than the great vocalist, enchaind the feelings of her auditory in depicting the maternal love and agony of the hated Borgia. Seldom has such acting been equalled—never, we would venture to say, surpassed—by any artist in the performance of this piece. True to nature, and to the character of the woman, she did not, for the sake of effect, exhibit the slightest deviation in a single motion, look or tone from the strict and critical line of acting. Throughout it was a grand, true, intensified delineation. And no wonder that the audience were carried away with enthusiasm, and paid that homage to the tragedienne which hitherto they had rendered to the comedienne.

Reda, as Duke Alfonso, and Pozzolini, as Gennaro, were equally effective in their parts. The auxiliary characters were all well sustained, and the few scenes were faultless. The house, as on each previous evening of the opera, was filled in every part with a fashionable audience, who testified their admiration by well-timed applause. Between the acts, and after the curtain fell, Sontag, Radial and Pozzolini came before the lights, in response to the general call, and received the most flattering testimonies of appreciation. Lucrecia Borgia is to be repeated on Monday evening.

TAMMANY HALL.—Meeting of the Soft Shells. That portion of the Democratic Republican General Committee recognized by the Schemata of Tammany Society met last evening, and organized by selecting Daniel E. Delavan, Chairman pro tem and Messrs. Puzer and Glover Secretaries pro tem. A resolution was submitted by Mr. L. R. Shepard, expressive of the propriety of uniting the friends of the Baltimore platform and the supporters of the State and national administrations, and recommending for that purpose that no action be taken on contested seats until Thursday, the 27th. We also learn that a discussion occurred on the meaning to be attached to the action of the Schemata, and it was decided, with great unanimity, that it merely determined which of the two parties should be permitted temporarily to occupy Tammany Hall, and that at the next meeting all having a certificate signed by a majority of the inspectors of electors should be entitled to participate in its proceedings, and might be equal voters in all questions but the validity of their respective claims to seats. This construction of the resolution of the Schemata removes much difficulty in the way of harmony, and it is not improbable that some of the conservative members of the contestants, however, appeared rather dissatisfied with the result, expecting to walk over the field with undisputed sway, from the failure of the certified members to claim their seats.

Mr. Walsh's Mission to Nicaragua.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21, 1853.

SIR.—Upon several occasions you have brought accusations against me of having, by my offensive conduct, as Commissioner to Nicaragua, been, in part, the cause of the rejection, by the government of that country, of what is called "the Webster-Crampton project." In reply, allow me to state a few facts—

1st.—I was not accredited in any way to the government of Nicaragua, my mission having been exclusively to that of Costa Rica. There it was perfectly successful, not at all because that republic, as has been affirmed, is a protégé of Great Britain, which it is not in the least, but because it is under the control of a polite, peaceful, and enlightened monarch, who is anxious to be on more than any other Central American State, to the friendly interests of our government and people.

2d.—I went to Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, only to get the despatches of our resident Charge d'Affaires, and bear them to Washington. He alone had been commissioned to treat with the Nicaraguan government concerning the proposed arrangement; and nothing can be more untrue than your statement in yesterday's HERALD, that the propositions were "most officiously presented," as well as most officiously rejected.

3d.—I did not reach Managua until several days after the propositions had been rejected; the real causes of which rejection will, I venture to say, be sooner or later, fully understood.

4th.—I had but one interview with the Nicaraguan authorities—a simple visit of courtesy, under the auspices of the Charge d'Affaires, and in the course of which I was of course entirely private, as I had no official relations with them whatever.

5th.—In that interview nothing was said or done by me that could give rise to any reasonable expectation that I should take any active part in the negotiations, or that I should take office at all; and then and there passed, must be afflicted with a thinness of skin that utterly unfit them for the exposure to the heat and breath of discussion, or must have resolved on being offended with a view to ulterior purposes.

As the whole correspondence on the subject of Central America has been conducted by me, you will see I have an opportunity of ascertaining the mistakes in that regard, to which you have been doubtless led by that "most officious" and "most officious" man, Dr. Hawkes. I have been well, sir, permit me to ask, to have waited until he was in full possession of the facts of the case, before forwarding statements which may work injustice and wrong to our country, and to the friends of our government on no other ground than that of "it is said." Such a ground is not so good, or so logical, even, as the famous geographical one suggested by the Gravels for the case of Hamlet. According to the French definition, "it says," means, they lie—"on dit, c'est dire on ment"—and one may deny it nevertheless. Nevertheless, "they say," continues to inundate its daily beams of course entirely private, as I had no official relations with them whatever.

Unreliable as it is, it should especially be distrusted when, as in the present instance, it has its birth in a dim and distant quarter. Every opportunity should be taken to guard against the error, as described by the great poet in lines which, I tremble as they are, cannot be too often recalled, as a warning against rash judgment. By the journalist, more particularly, as it is so easy to be misled, and the error may have the same chance of travel as the error; but we all know that, somehow the former rarely overtakes the latter, and never succeeds in crushing it altogether. The would may, indeed, be true, but the error is sure to remain, and in many eyes, to wear all the semblance of a brain.